HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 4137 FILED ON: 1/17/2025

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2080

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Manny Cruz and Rita A. Mendes

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote economic mobility through ESOL.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Manny Cruz	*7th Essex*	*1/17/2025*
Rita A. Mendes	*11th Plymouth*	*1/17/2025*
Russell E. Holmes	*6th Suffolk*	*2/18/2025*
Kevin G. Honan	*17th Suffolk*	*2/26/2025*
Samantha Montaño	*15th Suffolk*	*3/20/2025*
Rob Consalvo	*14th Suffolk*	*4/14/2025*
Danillo A. Sena	*37th Middlesex*	*4/15/2025*
Tara T. Hong	*18th Middlesex*	*5/1/2025*
Michelle M. DuBois	*10th Plymouth*	*5/21/2025*
Vanna Howard	*17th Middlesex*	*9/1/2025*
Adrian C. Madaro	*1st Suffolk*	*10/23/2025*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 2080

By Representatives Cruz of Salem and Mendes of Brockton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2080) of Manny Cruz, Rita A. Mendes and others relative to providing job training for workers with limited-English proficiency. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act to promote economic mobility through ESOL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. To ensure the creation of opportunity by investing in the infrastructure needed to provide job training, and workforce development for workers with limited-English proficiency (LEP), an ESOL for economic mobility coordinator position shall be created within the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development established under Chapter 23, section 1 of the General Laws to develop a statewide, comprehensive, actionable strategy to prepare newly-arrived and other LEP workers with the English language skills needed to fill in-demand jobs across Massachusetts. In developing an ESOL for economic mobility strategy, the coordinator must convene stakeholders, including but not limited to employers, job training providers, worker advocacy organizations, community-based organizations, and constituents, to incorporate their feedback and recommendations for strategies to achieve the objectives herein. The coordinator shall manage all efforts through the Workforce Skills Cabinet established in Massachusetts Executive Order No. 560 to ensure the following ESOL for economic mobility objectives are met in concert with the Executive Office of Education and Department of

14 Elementary and Secondary Education; accomplished in addition to and not the detriment of
15 ESOL efforts in those agencies; and achieved in collaboration with the Executive Office of
16 Economic Development in measuring the effectiveness of ESOL for economic mobility in
17 meeting employers needs. The coordinator shall be responsible for, but is not limited to, the
18 implementation of the following objectives:

19 a.) Develop a statewide ESOL expansion strategy, in collaboration with the executive
20 office of education, with a focus on providing ESOL for economic mobility to new arrivals and
21 the LEP population.

22 b.) Increase investment in ESOL to bring capacity into alignment with the state's growing
23 LEP population.

24 c.) As resource levels rise, shift state ESOL for workforce funding to vocational
25 programs.

26 d.) Leverage community colleges to bring more federal resources into the ESOL delivery
27 system.

28 e.) Support regional collaboration and remove barriers to coordination among local
29 service providers.

30 f.) Build the ESOL educator workforce.

31 g.) Improve data collection and support research and evaluation.

32 SECTION 2. PILOT

33 Within 90 days of passage of this act, there shall be an ESOL for economic mobility pilot
34 program administered by ESOL for economic mobility coordinator in the Executive Office of
35 Labor and Workforce Development's to expediently expand the availability of ESOL for
36 economic mobility to meet the immediate demands of employers and provide opportunities for
37 employment to newly-arrived, long-time unemployed, and underemployed workers with limited-
38 English proficiency

39 SECTION 3. REPORTING

40 Not later than one year after passage of this act, the office shall submit its comprehensive
41 strategic plan and report on measurable outcomes achieved to meet its statutory duties, along
42 with suggested specific objectives, key performance indicators and outcome measures proposed
43 for the following year. The report shall include data and statistics on the total number of students
44 served, percent increase in investment to ESOL programs, number of community college
45 programs and students served by them, number of vocational ESOL programs and students
46 served by them, and number of new ESOL educators deployed through these programs and
47 numbers of jobs gained by individuals who have successfully completed ESOL programs.
48 Thereafter, the office shall annually submit the report by August 30 to the governor, the secretary
49 of labor and workforce development, the chairs and ranking minority members of the joint
50 committee on labor and workforce development, and the joint committee on Education and the
51 clerks of the House and Senate.

52 SECTION 4. FUNDING COORDINATOR AND PROGRAMS

53 The sums set forth in this act, for the purposes and subject to the conditions specified in
54 this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public

55 funds, which sums shall be in addition to any other amounts previously appropriated for these

56 purposes……$13,000,000